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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/11/2019
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [UNSC](#) [BM](#)
SUBJECT: STATE OF PLAY ON UN BURMA STATEMENT

Classified By: Ambassador Rice for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (SBU) This is an action request, see paragraph 4.

12. (SBU) In Security Council consultations on August 11, most Council members broadly condemned the conviction and sentencing of Aung Sun Suu Kyi (ASSK). A clear majority supported the P-3 drafted statement introduced by the U.S., with the exception of China, Russia, Vietnam and Libya, who said they would need to send the draft to capitals for guidance. Chinese DPR Liu added that China was opposed to any statement by the Council and refused to engage further in discussions on it. Recognizing a deadlock, UK PR Sawers, in his role as Council President, proposed reconvening the Council tomorrow (August 12) after further bilateral consultations, allowing those member states who lacked guidance to receive instruction from capitals.

13. (C) After consultations, P-3 Ambassadors met briefly to discuss next steps. The Ambassadors agreed that capitals should be asked to demarche both Beijing and Moscow at the highest appropriate level and urge them to support the statement. UK PR Sawers, in his role as Council President, and the U.S. will meet with the Chinese tomorrow morning (August 12) to determine whether there is agreement. Depending on China's response, there will be a follow-on P-5 meeting to discuss next steps. French DPR LaCroix indicated that if no agreement on a statement could be obtained, France will call for an open meeting of the Council before the end of the week, most likely Thursday, August 13. PR Sawers said that he will reconvene the Council in consultations tomorrow afternoon.

14. (C) Action request: USUN requests that the Department instruct our embassies in Moscow and Beijing to demarche host governments on August 12 at the highest appropriate level to press for agreement to the draft statement (full text below).

15. (SBU) Full text of the draft statement:

"The Security Council condemns the conviction and sentencing of Daw Aung Sun Suu Kyi and expresses grave concern about the political impact this action has on the situation in Myanmar.

"The Security Council calls on the Government of Myanmar to release Daw Aung Sun Suu Kyi, and all other political prisoners.

"The Security Council reaffirms, in this context, its statements of 11 October 2007, 2 May 2008 and 22 May 2009, and underlines the need for the Government of Myanmar to establish the conditions and create an atmosphere conducive to an inclusive and credible political and electoral process with full participation of all political actors, including Daw Aung Sun Suu Kyi. The Security Council supports the personal involvement of the Secretary-General to achieve this goal.

"The members of the Security Council affirm their commitment

to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Myanmar and, in that context, reiterate that the future of Myanmar lies in the hands of all its people and that all those who have a contribution to make to the future of their country must be free to be able to do so.

"The Security Council remains seized of the matter."
RICE